

INFORMATION UPDATE

Newark Community Project for People With A.I.D.S.
P.O. Box 1241 • Newark, New Jersey 07101

'Let Us Fight The Virus, Not Each Other'

Volume I, No. 1

December, 1989

Dr. Adewale Troutman to Address Breakfast Meeting of N.C.P. for PWAs, Co-sponsored by U.M.D. - N.J.



Dr. Adewale Troutman
Newark Medical Director

'The Need for Networking Among all Groups Involved in the Struggle Against the AIDS Epidemic' will be the topic of an address by Dr. Adewale Troutman, Newark Medical Director, to a breakfast meeting for representatives of community-based organizations, allied health professionals, and others concerned with the AIDS crisis in the City, Friday morning, December 1st, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Gateway Hilton Hotel.

The breakfast meeting, to be co-hosted by the Newark Community Project for People with AIDS (N.C.P. for PWAs) and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of N.J., will mark the second anniversary of "World AIDS Day" as marked by the World Health Organization of the United Nations. Mr. Richard Powell, Newark AIDS Coordinator, will preside at the breakfast meeting.

A major purpose of the breakfast will be to establish new task forces concerning different aspects of the current AIDS crisis in the City. The task forces will be commissioned to draft needs statements outlining service delivery gaps and any duplications of effort, as well as preliminary strategies for overcoming impediments to progress.

N.C.P. for PWAs Provided A New Grant By AIDS Group of Community Foundation

N.C.P. for PWAs has received a grant from the New Jersey Community AIDS Partnership Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey. The purpose of the grant is to assist NCP for PWAs in its effort to study mechanisms for coordination and cooperation among service providers in Newark.

The New Jersey Community AIDS Partnership Fund was started by a challenge grant from the National Community AIDS Partnership. The partnership, both nationally and locally, is supported by contributions from the business community.

N.C.P. was one of eight community based organizations awarded grants to conduct projects based upon the AIDS Needs Assessment study prepared by the Foundation's AIDS Advisory Committee. The committee, composed of representatives from business, state government, health professionals, and others, reviewed proposals and selected grant recipients.

Rich Matthews of The Prudential Foundation presented the grant to NCP for PWAs at a reception held at the Community Foundation on October 17. ■

Richard Proctor, Trustee, Attends An AIDS Network Conference in Washington

Thanks to a scholarship provided by the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company through the National AIDS Network (NAN), the Newark Community Project for People with A.I.D.S. (N.C.P. for PWAs) Board was able to be represented at a national 'Skills Building Conference' sponsored by NAN in Washington, D.C. last month.

Mr. Richard Proctor, a founder of (Continued on Page 4)

The AIDS Project of the Hyacinth Foundation has moved its Essex County Office to 877 Broad Street, Newark, (201) 565-0300 or 0400. Ms. Jacqueline Jones, a longtime participant in the N.C.P. for PWAs is County Project Coordinator.

Report from the Chairman

As we review the first year of our struggle to participate in the battle against the AIDS epidemic in the Greater Newark area, we can take solace from some developments, but truly regret the neglect and indifference reflected by others.

When we began this organization as the 'Ad-Hoc Committee on AIDS,' we met as a small group of individuals concerned about the absence of any community-wide effort to combat the spread of the HIV virus, to foster the humane care and treatment of AIDS patients, and to ensure the widespread dissemination of up-to-date and accurate information.

Positive developments since our inception have included the U.S. Congressional hearings convened at Essex County College (due to the intervention

of Representative Donald Payne), the designation by the City Medical Director of a Newark AIDS Coordinator (Mr. Richard Powell, one of NCP's original incorporators), and our own growth and development into a network of activists representing community-based organizations throughout the City, allied health professionals, religious entities, drug abuse and prevention programs, and concerned individuals.

We have also: (1) sponsored a series of informative community forums; (2) established a mutually satisfactory level of communication and cooperation with the Newark Department of Health and Human Services (Mrs. Callie Foster-Strugge, Director); and (3) received financial support from student groups at Rutgers-Newark, from The Prudential Foundation, the Community Foundation of New Jersey, Special Audiences, and from individual contributors.

But, sad to say, much remains to be done, because the epidemic continues

to ravage the community. We have now suffered an estimated 1,800 AIDS related deaths in Newark since 1981. Each and every day, more than 160 AIDS patients lie suffering in Newark hospitals. We now have more than 600 People Living With AIDS today in Newark. And the numbers keep growing day by day.

The Newark Community Project for People With A.I.D.S., has publicly taken a number of positions on pertinent issues over the past year, including, but not limited to:

1. The need for a step-down, sub-acute facility (like a nursing home) in the City to provide AIDS patients (temporarily not in need of round-the-clock care in an acute care hospital facility) with a safe, sanitary, and professionally staffed facility. This would achieve three purposes: (a) It would provide an alternative to life on the streets, or in minimal-care homeless shelters for low-income AIDS patients emitted from hospitals, jails, or their own homes; (b) It would cut the costs for providing adequate care for AIDS patients from

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Newark Community Project for People With A.I.D.S.

P.O. BOX 1241 • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07101

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'Let us fight the virus, not each other.'

DONATIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED TO:

- ✓ Promote the widespread dissemination of accurate and up to date information about the AIDS crisis
- ✓ Promote educational efforts for those at risk of contracting the HIV infection
- ✓ Promote the humane care and treatment of people living with AIDS

[This Advertisement, reprinted from the New Jersey Black Issues 1989 Convention Journal, is presented as a public service in Memory of Raymond G. Proctor]

Chairman's Report

(Continued from Page 2)

approximately \$850 per day in the hospital to about \$225 per day in the sub-acute facility; and (c) It would reduce the severe overcrowding of hospital facilities which are already afflicted by a nursing shortage, and it would render the quality of our teaching hospitals more attractive to better and brighter students by enlarging the variety of the caseload.

2. The need for a better coordinated, more comprehensive planning mechanism for education/prevention efforts emanating from the federal, state, and local levels of government as well as non-governmental entities so as to: (a) Involve the total community in this struggle; (b) Avoid wasteful duplication of effort while plugging obvious service gaps; and (c) Treat the entire At-Risk population, particularly adolescents, in a holistic manner, i.e., drug prevention, juvenile crime prevention, academic and vocational achievement, family preservation, and the encouragement of greater self-esteem are all related, as are AIDS education/prevention efforts. [I personally believe these efforts com-

ing from whatever source ought to be cleared with the City Medical Director's office and then targeted via a City-wide organization like N.C.P. together with the City AIDS Consortium to the areas of greatest need.]

3. The need for the State Government to get its act together. I was pleased to see on local television Dr. James Oleske and Ms. Mary Boland voice agreement with the N.C.P. call on Governor Kean to establish a high level inter-departmental task force on the AIDS crisis so as to allow for 'one-stop shopping' for AIDS patients and their families. Medicaid waivers, homeless prevention, HIV testing, psychological services, child care programs, access to investigative drugs and all the other myriad services needed should not have to be hunted down, the proper forms (in triplicate) searched for, and numerous trips to all corners of the area required just to obtain the services to which one is entitled. Moreover, it sometimes appears that one Department of the State does not know what another is doing in efforts to attack this crisis; and

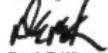
4. The need for an AIDS Resource

Directory for Newark so that everyone is made aware of exactly what services are available and how to access them. I applaud the efforts being put forward by the City AIDS Coordinator in achieving this objective.

I am encouraged to believe that more and more people are waking up to these urgent needs and I look forward to at least partial remediation in 1990. Until there is a cure, it is the best we can do.

In the meantime, I thank you all for your support, whether you are active in N.C.P. or another organization with similar goals, it matters not. As we said from the beginning: *'Let Us Fight The Virus, Not Each Other.'*

With Regards,


Derek T. Winans
Chairman

If you have not yet received an invitation to the December 1st breakfast and would like to attend, please call the N.C.P. for P.W.A.s office at (201) 824-5900.

AIDS Services Cut

Despite numerous promises to the contrary, a \$10-million budget cutback imposed on the State Health Department by an unyielding majority in the General Assembly, has resulted in cutbacks in staff and services provided AIDS patients, according to a report in The Star-Ledger last August.

Just as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has predicted a doubling in the number of New Jersey AIDS cases within the next two years, approximately 50 staff positions in the Department's AIDS Division were eliminated. This followed a prior \$1-million cutback in federal and state AIDS funds from the Department's budget. In addition, Dr. Molly Coyle, Commissioner, disclosed that there will also be cutbacks in about 73 AIDS community grants administered by the Department. ■

Gross Underreporting of AIDS Cases Finally Acknowledged By Researchers

What many New Jersey observers have long contended — that 'official' statistics on AIDS cases in fact only reflect the tip of the iceberg in terms of the epidemic's true dimensions — has now been substantiated by a new study published last month in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

And to no one's great surprise, the study found that the most glaring gaps in the reporting of AIDS cases were among African-Americans and females. The study, based on AIDS cases reported and unreported in South Carolina during the 18-month period from January, 1986 through June, 1987, found that at least 40 percent of actual AIDS cases were unreported.

And, then in the typical understated style of academia, the epidemiologists concluded: "If underreporting to the degree observed in this study is widespread in the United States, current estimates regarding the extent of the epidemic should be viewed with caution ... although it seems reasonable to assume that similar underreporting may exist elsewhere."

Critics in Newark have long charged that statistics compiled by both State Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control have grossly underestimated the number of Newark cases.

This latest study confirms an earlier report of the U.S. General Accounting Office on the massive underestimation of AIDS cases throughout the nation. That study raised serious questions about the quality of the data collected by government agencies, especially in inner-city neighborhoods. ■

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Alarming Rise of HIV Infected Adolescents Reported in Wide Variety of New Studies

New studies indicating the alarming spread of the HIV infection among adolescents at a rate "far higher than that for adults" were reported by *The New York Times* in a front page story Sunday, October 8th.

These studies appear to confirm the worst fears of many health professionals who foresee unsafe sex, sometimes coupled with drug abuse, as an established pattern of behavior. It would mean that in approximately ten years, the total number of people living with the AIDS disease as well as the projected number of fatalities will have grown exponentially. [The U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, has already projected that New Jersey's reported current caseload of 7,378 will more than double in the next two years.]

What is equally alarming to the

experts is the fact that the HIV virus is being transmitted among adolescents primarily through heterosexual intercourse (although one or both partners might be bi-sexual). This means that equal numbers of boys and girls are becoming infected and projects out to be a sharp increase in the proportion of AIDS cases among women for the years to come.

According to the comprehensive *New York Times* article:

"A wide variety of experts, including officials at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, AIDS researchers at medical schools, social scientists, and advocates who work with teenagers say the nation needs to do a better job of teaching adolescents that they are at risk."

"These experts also say teenagers should be taught how to use condoms

and should have much greater access to health care services than they now have. And they warn that time is running out."

Many of these studies were based on blood samples from adolescent hospital patients, the incidence of babies born with AIDS to teenage mothers, testing of applicants to the U.S. Job Corps, and related techniques.

Widespread voluntary testing among adolescents as well as the general population has not yet caught on, despite the view of many experts that new medical treatments are now available to prolong life and improve the quality of life among AIDS patients. This is especially true if the treatment begins during the incubation period between the contraction of the infection and the onset of the disease itself. ■

Trustee Attends Conference (Continued from Page 1)

N.C.P. for PWAs and currently serving as a trustee, gained valuable insights to be shared with the Board in helping achieve N.C.P.'s primary goals: (1) To promote the widespread dissemination of accurate and up-to-date information regarding the AIDS epidemic in the Newark area; (2) To promote education/prevention efforts throughout the community to combat the spread of the HIV virus; and (3) To promote the humane care and treatment of those living with the AIDS disease.

The conference was designed to "confront the challenges of rapid growth, organizational change, and survival head on" for such networking coalitions as N.C.P. "The Skills Building Conference was created for community-based AIDS service providers to develop their practical skills in management and deliver more effective services."

The conference also afforded Newark's representative the opportunity to meet counterparts from across the country and exchange information and ideas. ■

Interfaith AIDS Service Slated for Trinity Cathedral December 3rd in Trenton

A Service of Hope and Remembrance billed as 'An Interfaith Response to AIDS' will be convened Sunday, December 3rd, beginning at 3 p.m. at Trinity Cathedral, 801 West State Street in Trenton, it was announced last month.

A Dedication of Memorial Quilt Panels as part of the New Jersey Names Project will be conducted and a reception will follow the service.

For further information, the AIDS Interfaith Network may be contacted at (201) 675-8600. Rev. Edward Clydesdale of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church has been serving as an informal liaison from the AIDS Interfaith Network to the Newark Community Project for People With A.I.D.S. (N.C.P. for PWAs). ■

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service has officially notified George Hanley, Esq., the Newark Community Project for People With A.I.D.S. (N.C.P. for PWAs) pro bono attorney of the agency's determination that NCP for PWAs is exempt from Federal Income Tax "as an organization described in section 501(c)3."

Memorial Quilt

'Keep the Love Alive,' the AIDS Memorial Quilt Names Project, is requesting volunteer assistance in bringing the famous quilt to Newark and three other cities in New Jersey in the Spring of next year.

Help is needed in local organizing efforts, outreach, media relations, fundraising and other related functions.

For further information, you may write to:

N.J. Names Project Tour Coalition
330 Broadway
Union Beach, NJ 07735
or, you may telephone the New Jersey Names Project at (201) 888-1790 or (201) 870-9424. ■

Special Audiences will host a production of 'On The Strength,' a play about AIDS and adolescents performed by TEEN-TO-TEEN Theater Company Thursday, November 30th, beginning at 4 p.m. in the Terrace Ballroom of Symphony Hall, Ms. Ellen Bay and Mr. John Dzwonar, co-directors, announced last month.